

Justice for the Timorese



Rae Kingsbury, Honorary Timor Leste Consul Victoria gave a very clear and precise assessment of the current situation regarding the international boundary between our country and Timor Leste. The 115 people, old and young who attended our annual dinner were very moved by her address and overwhelmingly by a show of hands agreed to support a petition to redress the current "agreement" between the two nations. Please consider following this up by referring to www.timorseajustice.com

The dinner at Dromoland House was most enjoyable - fine meal and venue, music by St Joseph's College jazz band and an opportunity of sharing commitment to our neighbours. Great effort committee members Rosemary Friend, Louise Madden and Chris Clark

Teacher Training Program

The Learning Resource Development Center (Dili) has completed a 5 week "Compact Teacher Training Program" at Cabira-oan after receiving authorisation from the Ministry. Francisco Jorge provided a detailed needs analysis and budget and worked closely with Mariano DaSilva (GVFS Project Officer) The first three weeks of the program involved professional development and the fourth and fifth week allowed teachers the opportunity to demonstrate several assessment tasks in the classroom under observation. 12 teachers participated in the program and over 300 students across Yr 2 -Yr 6 levels. The program was well planned including a parent workshop and the



trainers provided ample opportunities for participants to fully participate. The teachers completed an evaluation report and the feedback was positive with 9 of the 12 teachers receiving a certificate of completion. I believe the professionalism and commitment of this training provider is excellent and GVFS plans to engage LRDC to deliver a second program in Loi-huno later this year.



The program cost \$5,000 and a special thanks to Geelong Rotary who have financially supported it. Tricia Blane, Project Manger.

Timorese Study at Deakin

Special visitors at the Annual Dinner were John Toumbourou and Chris Loughnan from Deakin University School of Psychology and three Timorese who are engaged in courses at the university. By all accounts they had a most enjoyable evening, especially Simmy as he was delighted to recognize a number of colleagues from home in the PowerPoint presentations.

Deakin University Australia and the Ministry of Education Timor Leste have developed a partnership aimed at enhancing the practice, teaching and research related to the planning and delivery of education services within the Ministry of Education. Mr Simao do Rosario and Mr Afonso Soares are both employees of the Ministry of Education Timor

Leste who are assisting to develop the partnership. Simao and Afonso are undertaking a five week non-award English language course. Following this course they will participate in a further 4 weeks mentor and orientation program with Deakin's School of Psychology to support their career development in research practices to assist the planning of education services.



Mr Thomas Lopes has been successful in his application to undertake a Health Promotion (tobacco prevention) project with Many Hands International in East Timor. This project will be completed in collaboration with Deakin University Australia. Thomas is undertaking a five week non-award English language course, after which he will participate in a further 4 weeks mentor and orientation program with Deakin's School of Psychology to support his career development in the field of Health Promotion.

All those connected with Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools and Geelong Friends of Viqueque are delighted that Deakin University is now a key player in Geelong's effort to help in the formal education of our friends in Timor Leste.

Support for Partner School



The Geelong College students have made a generous donation of \$7,447 towards support of schools in Viqueque, particularly their primary partner school Lo-

Huno. The funds will be used for a teacher training program conducted at the school by qualified Timorese teachers from the Learning Resource Development Centre, Dili and classroom resources such as, art supplies, Tetun/English dictionaries and musical Instruments.

Dockets for School Resources



St Joseph's College students have again donated stationery, art supplies etc. to the value of \$700 from their collection of docketts as part of Woolworths Earn and Learn and Coles Sports for Schools. These resources will be greatly appreciated by the students in the Viqueque schools. The partner school in Uganda will also be the beneficiary of the scheme.

Liam Higgins, Dexter Hare-Zen, Finn Chappell, Connor Blackwell

Beyond Village Life



St Francis Xavier Primary School has contributed \$1000 towards a second four day student tour of Dili for their partner school St Estevao Senior Secondary School. Viqueque is a long way from the capital Dili. The tour provides the students with an excellent opportunity for a better understanding of the political, cultural, religious and economic life of its country. Students will visit such places as the National Parliament, the Governor's Palace, The Department of the President, Dili University, Centre for the Formation of Youth, Dominican Orphanage, John Paul II monument, Dili Police Headquarters, the new 'state-of-the-art' Electricity Plant and Resistance Museum. The study tour is a significant way by which senior students, future leaders of their country gain first hand knowledge beyond their rural community.